



# *ECHO Knowledge Series Youth Action : Volunteering with the European Solidarity Corps*

*24 April 2025*

*Directorate-General for Education,  
Youth, Sport and Culture*

## The legal bases

**Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU)** highlights solidarity as one of the principles key to the Union. The principle of solidarity is also referred to in **Article 21(1) TEU** as one of the foundations of the Union's external action.

**Art. 214.5 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union** : In order to establish a framework for joint contributions from young Europeans to the humanitarian aid operations of the Union, a **European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps** shall be set up.



European  
Voluntary  
Service

EU Aid  
Volunteers  
initiative

ESC

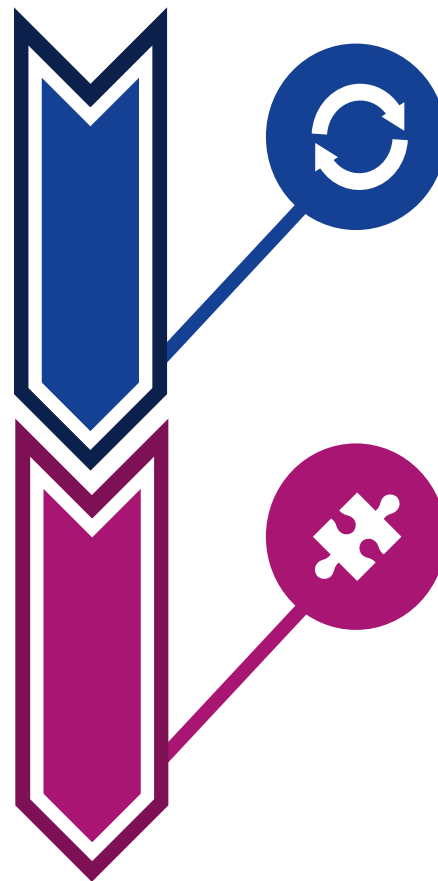
Humanitarian  
Aid strand



**WANT TO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE WHERE  
IT'S MOST NEEDED?**



## Offers young people opportunities to:



Make a meaningful contribution to society and help resolve challenging situations across Europe

Develop their skills and get some valuable experience in the process



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Commission



# PRIORITIES OF THE PROGRAMME FOR 2021-2027



Inclusion



Green



Digital



Participation

**Volunteering Projects** offer opportunities for **young people** to take part in **solidarity activities** contributing to the daily work of participating organisations, to the ultimate **benefit of the communities** within which the activities are carried out.



**2021 - 2027**

**VOLUNTEERING**

- FOR PARTICIPANTS AGED **18-30**
- **HELPING** WHERE NEEDED AND **GAINING SKILLS**
- IN THE **EU** AND **NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**

## Volunteering Projects

**Individual volunteering** allows young people to participate in the daily activities of organisations for **2-12 months** (in cases for people with fewer opportunities as of 2 weeks) **abroad** or **in their country of residence**.



**Minimum two organisations** covering host and support role (except for in-country and volunteering teams) and holder of a **Quality Label**.

**Volunteering teams** are groups of **10-40 young people** from at least **two countries** volunteering for a shorter period of **2 weeks to 2 months**.



# GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

**EU Member States and third countries associated to the programme:** – Organisations can apply to the **National Agency** of the country they are established in.

**Third countries not associated to the programme** – Organisations can participate in projects as **partners**.





## Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas



The projects focus on **short-term group volunteering** large scale, **high impact projects**.



An incentive for youngsters who do not feel ready to embark upon challenging experiences on their own or **cannot commit for a long period of time** because of their studies or jobs, but still want to be of help for the community.



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# Extreme weather events

For livelihoods and communities that have been disrupted by **natural** or **man-made disasters**, including **armed conflicts**, the **Commission** since 2023 has proposed to put “relief for persons fleeing armed conflict and other victims of natural or man-made disasters” as a **specific priority**



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**

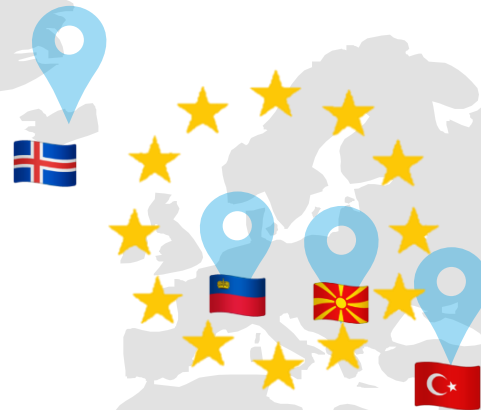




## GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

**EU Member States, third countries** associated/ not associated to the programme

**Organisations** minimum 3 from two EU Member States or **third countries associated** to the programme.



## CONDITIONS

**Project duration** 1, 2 or 3 years

**Unit costs** (max. EUR 400.000 per project)

**Teams of min. 5 participants** from different countries (one project min. 40 participants)

**Duration** between 2 weeks and 2 months

**Quality Label** is required



# Humanitarian Aid volunteering



**Geographical scope:** World-wide outside of EU Member States and countries associated to the programme

**Duration:** As an individual: 2 to 12 months, or in teams of 5 to 40 participants during 15 to 60 days

**Requirement:** Completion of the compulsory training (online and face-to-face)

**Quality Label:** Required, delivered by EACEA

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THE POWER OF TOGETHER.

**2021 - 2027**

**HUMANITARIAN AID**

- FOR PARTICIPANTS AGED **18-35**
- **VOLUNTEERING** SUPPORTING EU AID OPERATIONS **WORLDWIDE**
- **TRAINING** PROVIDED

**Humanitarian Aid volunteering** activities in support of humanitarian aid operations contribute to projects that:

facilitate the transition from the **humanitarian response** to **long-term sustainable and inclusive development**

contribute to **strengthening the capacity and resilience** of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities

**reinforce disaster preparedness** and disaster risk reduction

link **relief, rehabilitation and development**

ensure a **high level of safety and security** for volunteers

# Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations



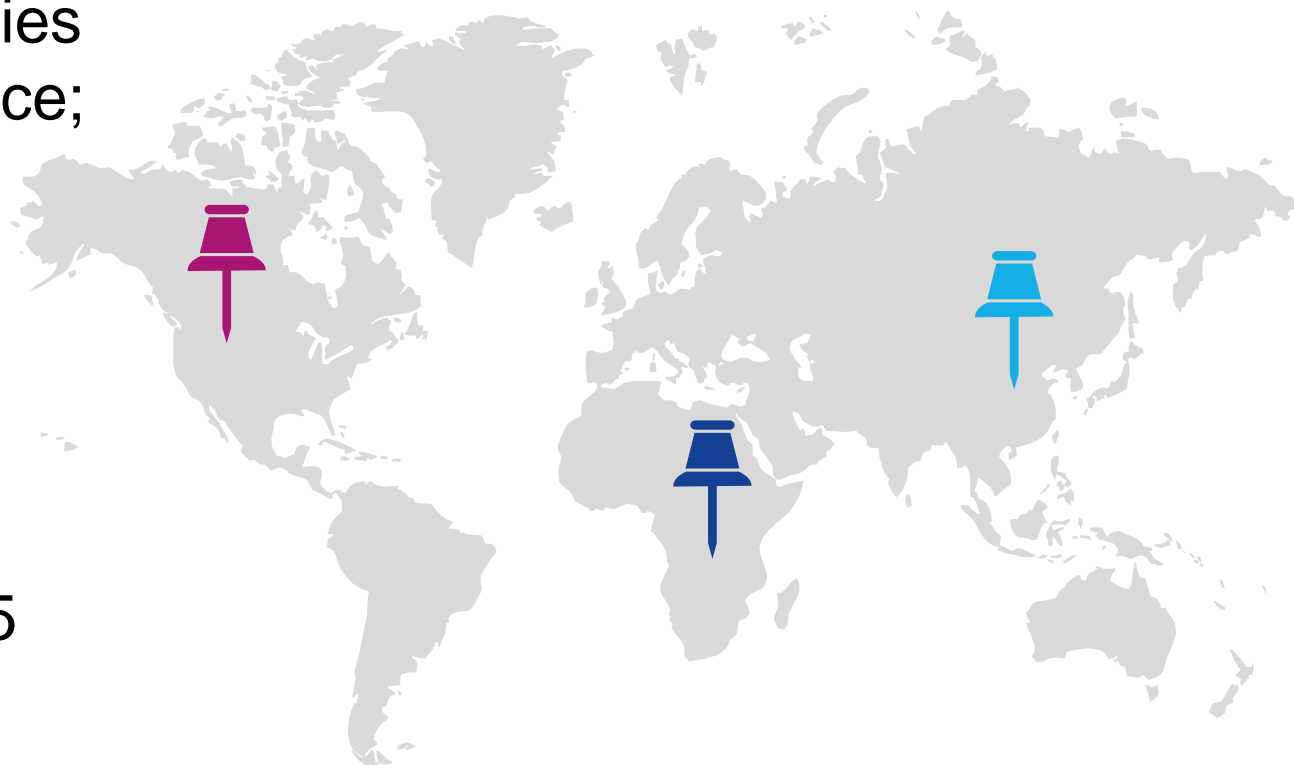
**In 3<sup>rd</sup> countries** where  
Humanitarian aid activities  
and operations take place;  
No armed conflicts



**Young people**  
18 – 35 years old



**Budget**  
9 million EUR in 2025



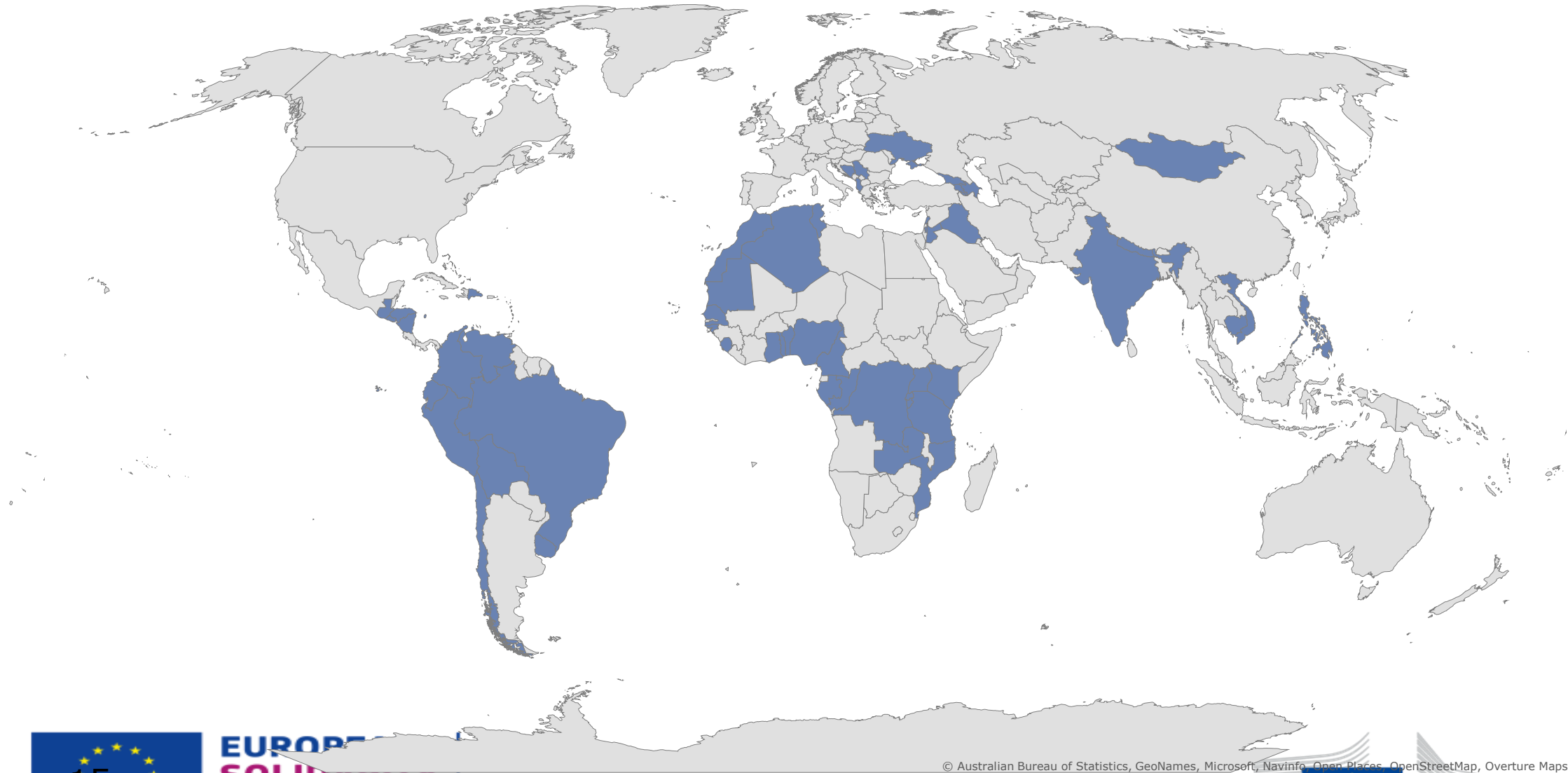
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# Geographical scope: projects 2022 to 2024





# The Quality Label

**Entry ticket** for organisations,  
precondition for participation in  
volunteering activities,  
to apply for funding and take part in  
the programme

Organisations must  
demonstrate **compliance**  
**with quality standards**  
and **objectives** of the Corps  
and Capacity to  
undertake quality  
volunteering activities

**Submitted  
continuously**

2 types of Quality Labels,  
awarded by **National  
Agencies** for volunteering  
projects and by the **EACEA**  
for humanitarian aid  
volunteering projects

**Valid until 2027** and  
subject to periodical  
reassessments, it  
does **NOT** automatically  
lead to funding

# The Quality Label ensures compliance with the principles & quality standards of the Corps

**Equal opportunities and non-discrimination**

**Avoidance of job substitution**

**Avoidance of harmful activities**

**Provision of high quality, easily accessible and inclusive activities**

**Adequate training, working and volunteering arrangements**

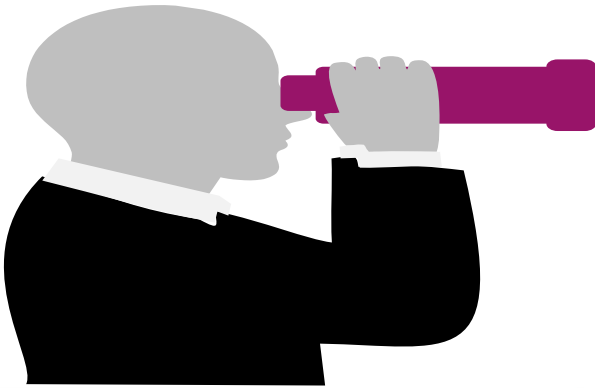
**Non profit**



# For volunteering in solidarity activities : applications should be made at one of the National Agencies

- You can use the [application forms](#) (ESC50) to apply for a Quality Label at any time. **National Agencies take about 8 weeks to process applications.**

- The Quality Label will give your organisation access to the [Organisation Portal](#),** accessible from the European Solidarity Corps portal.



NB : A Quality Label is **not** needed for Solidarity Projects.

# For volunteering in support of humanitarian aid activities : Registration on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal

- ✓ *The submission of the application form is managed by the **EU Funding & tender opportunities portal** (the **central electronic portal** for all EU funding and tenders)*



Funding & tender opportunities  
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)



## 3 Create an EU Login account

Each user has to have an EU Login account to log in on the Portal. If you already have such an account, you can use it for any interactions supported on this site from proposal submission to reporting.


If you do not have an account yet, you need to create it by clicking on the REGISTER button. Otherwise you get access only to the public services of the site (eg. searching funding opportunities, reading guidance, etc.)

Register an EU login account

ecas-login requires you to authenticate

Sign in to continue

Welcome




[Sign in with a different e-mail address?](#)

Password

[Lost your password?](#)

Choose your verification method

Password



Sign in

Key documents available at [European Solidarity Corps Programme Guide 2025](#)  
and more information for organisations and candidate volunteers on the [European Youth Portal](#)

Or in the **European Solidarity Corps App**.



European Solidarity Corps

European Union Social

Teen

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European Solidarity Corps

European Union Apps

★★★★★ 5.0 + 1 Rating

Free



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